

International dispute resolution in sports

Key words: international sports law, dispute resolution, CAS

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the mechanisms of dispute resolution in sports. After the introductory first chapter which deals with definitions of basic concepts such as sport in general or sports law, the thesis focuses on international aspects of sports law.

The second chapter is concerned with essential issues of international sports law, particularly with the legitimacy of nongovernmental sports federations in the realm of the international legal order, nature of sports regulations, subjects of international sports law and the most important international legal documents.

The third chapter describes the structure of international sports federations on the example of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Special attention is dedicated to the discussion of international legal personality of the IOC and also to the character of the Olympic Charter, which is a crucial international document in the area of sports.

The next three chapters examine one of the most important segments of international sports law – dispute resolution. Firstly, a domestic level of dispute resolution is addressed. This passage also contains the analysis of state courts' interventions into the practice and decision-making in sports. Secondly, the framework of international sports federations' resolution mechanism is inspected. Illustrated by the International Football Federation FIFA, the text presents the main judicial bodies of a federation that are concerned with dispute resolution and their procedural rules. Lastly, there is a chapter relating to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The CAS is regarded as a central specialized authority to decide sports-related disputes. Its importance is ever increasing and is expected to become a real sports court of the last instance. The awards and consultations of the CAS help to create a distinct body of international sports law called *lex sportiva*.

The last chapter investigates the relation between the European Union and sports organizations. It endeavours to show how that relation evolved in time and what new incentives there are to come after the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.